

From: Milan Hejtmanek
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:50am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

As a university professor who has used personal computers daily for the past fifteen years, I would like to comment on the proposed settlement.

I am not in favor of it in its current state. Please consider this a vote against the current settlement, as well as a vote to seek a settlement that is more favorable to Microsoft's competitors.

Over the past decade I have been appalled at the inhibition of competition created by Microsoft's business practices: the decline of Netscape Navigator is one example, the lack of choices in word processing programs is another. In many ways, MS Word is bloated and mediocre--in its ability to handle foreign language scripts, for example--but Microsoft's near-complete dominance of the operating system market has given it too much market leverage in application software for other companies to compete successfully. Who would now dare (or could find the capital?) to start up a company marketing a new word processing program, regardless of its manifest superiority? MS competes only against itself at present.

I urge you to find an effective way to force Microsoft to allow genuine competition.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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